

Well, Councilman Livingston has posted several items on social media from BJCSTP Staff that are misrepresentations and included an editorial that are potentially slanderous. The items are addressed in the list below:



**Adam Afify** is at Binghamton Johnson City Waste Water Treatment Plant. ...

July 10 at 6:45 PM · Vestal, NY · 🌐

The project manager at the plant assures us that leaks like these in new concrete are normal, and to be expected; they tell us that we're not engineers and we should leave these things to the professionals.

Leading up to the wall collapse in 2011, it was plant personnel who sounded the alarm repeatedly, and nobody listened. You know what they said to us then? They said that leaks like that are normal and to be expected, and that since we aren't engineers we don't know what we're talking about.

Well, we may not be engineers, but we know this facility first-hand and everyone knows the cost of not listening to plant personnel at this point. The real question is, have you learned your lesson yet?

Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

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**1. Headworks leaking wall Picture #1, with electrical panels. –**

**Alleged Condition** – STP Staff alleges that the wall is leaking and is shoddy construction.

**Actual Condition** – This photo appears to be several weeks old. The headworks was put into service June 26 It does not show the completed work, and does not show that the leak has been addressed. The wall that the panels are located on backs up to the north grit channel. See attached drawing. The leak test on the channel was passed in January, 2019. All visible leaks were sealed at that time. At the time of the photograph, there are no visible leaks, just past leaks that were appropriately sealed during construction.

**Alleged Condition** – STP Staff also suggest that the control panels are covered in residue, and implying that they could be damaged.

**Actual Condition** – The issue is cosmetic, and it was addressed on the day that the picture was provided. These panels are not damaged. The streaky appearance is from water from the core drill process above the panels which ran down the wall. These panels have already been cleaned

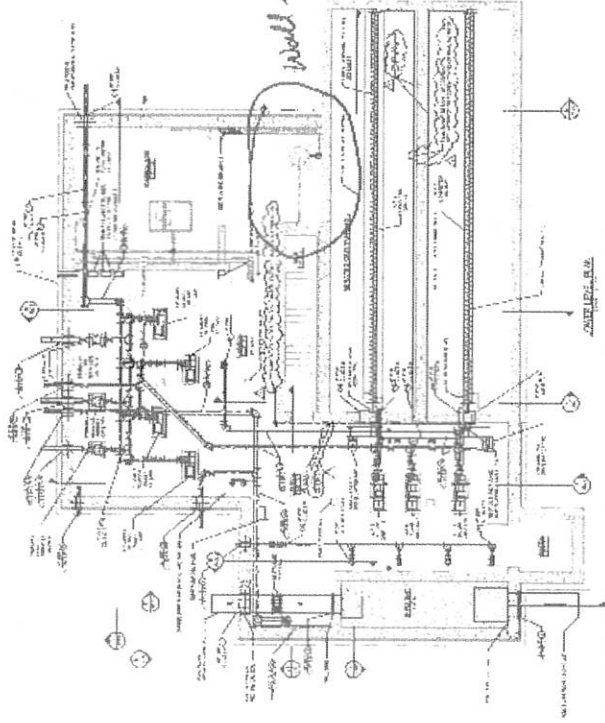
up, and were not damaged in any way. The panels were inspected after the drilling process, and it was confirmed that the panels did not have any intrusion of water into the panels. Furthermore, the manufacturer certified the installation of the panels prior to putting the Headworks on line on June 26, 2019, and they confirmed that there were no warranty concerns.







*well in question*



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
DIVISION OF STREETS  
STREET CLOSURE PERMIT  
NO. 06-10134-00120

DATE: 06-10-12  
BY: [Signature]  
FOR: [Signature]





2. Headworks leaking wall Picture #2 with Insulated Hot Water Pipe. –

**Alleged Condition** – The text indicates that the wall is leaking and is an example of shoddy concrete work.

**Actual Condition** – This wall picture is directly adjacent to the picture in item 1. It is not more than a few feet away from the picture above. See attached photo. As we have said before, it is not uncommon for concrete to leak water after it has been cast. That is the reason that we specify that a leak test be performed for all water holding structures, and for all visible leaks to be fixed on concrete structures. There are standard commonly accepted industry practices for sealing leaks in concrete. A person knowledgeable of the industry would know about these industry accepted leak sealing products. As stated above, any leaks in the wall were sealed several weeks or even months ago. The leak in the wall could not be discovered until the leak test of the grit channel. The leak test was passed in early winter.

3. Form Tie Hole –

**Alleged Condition** – substandard concrete work not being addressed at the time of construction.

**Actual Condition -** This leakage is from a form tie hole in the concrete wall that goes through the entire thickness of the wall. It is not defective concrete work. At the time of the video, the form tie hole had not yet been repaired. Form tie holes are created when the contractor uses form ties such as "She Bolts", or taper ties. These form ties go all the way through the concrete walls. These are required as a part of the structural support to hold the applied load from the concrete when it is placed. We believe that this tie hole was already sealed before Mr. Afify submitted his video. It could have been fixed as much as a year ago. For what it is worth, this tie hole would not have been left unsealed and would not represent a problem as a part of construction. At any rate, the form tie hole would always have been sealed before we would consider the concrete wall complete.





Jul 11, 2019 13:56:32  
Binghamton/Johnson City WWTP



4. The light fixture at CN Cell No. 7. –

**Alleged Condition** – Shoddy construction work is causing damage to the light fixture.

**Actual Condition** - This light fixture is in the CN Gallery near the expansion joint we previously discussed. The leak is going to be repaired. The light was protected with plastic to keep the water from getting onto or inside the light fixture. At any rate as soon as the leak is repaired, we will fully inspect the light to see if there was any damage to the fixture. If there is any damage, the light fixture will be replaced at the contractor's expense.

5. Door at Lab Installation -

**Alleged Condition** – The design of the door at the new lab is backward as it has a panic bar installed on the outside of the door, not on the inside as needed. STP staff suggests that that the door swing should be reversed so that it swings outward with a panic bar on the inside.

**Actual Condition** – The door is installed as designed. The door is installed with the swing inward to the lab room to comply with fire code. The door cannot be installed with an outward swing and comply with fire code as it would potentially obstruct the egress of a fire access path. The assertion that there should be a panic bar to comply with the fire code is false. A panic bar with an inward acting swing door would not be functional as you need to pull the door open inward toward the room.

A late issue was brought up by STP Management that they wanted to be able to lock the door, which the current door hardware would not allow. This was intended to prevent unauthorized access to the room to safe guard equipment from theft. This issue was resolved with STP Management in May, 2019. See email below from the Engineer.

Jerry,

Head House Lab door HH-104A was specifically designed to swing away from the main egress path in order to avoid clearance issues. There is not a code issue with having a panic bar on the door that swings into the non-exit corridor (HH104).

During design, GHD coordinated with the plant's lab manager to make sure these doors had mag stops included. The plant staff requested mags stops to normally hold open these doors in order to allow for the appearance of a more open space.

In addition, GHD met with the plant managers a few months ago and it was determined that no further action was required at the time.

**Eric Dienst, PE**

**GHD**  
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